



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 5 - 17th August 2026

EVENTS

THIS WEEK 5

Monday

ICAS Science

Wednesday

ICAS Spelling Bee

Thursday

**Confirmation Parent
Information Session
5pm (RE Room)**

Friday

**Assembly - 2.45pm
(Hall)**

Sunday

**Family Mass - 5pm
(HFS Chapel)**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see our students representing our school with such pride and sportsmanship at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival last Thursday. Congratulations to every competitor. We now have 19 students who will represent the Diocese at the Polding Carnival in Newcastle later this term. A special mention to our record breakers on the day: Nazzarine Payne, Emrys Cassidy, Allegra Cronin, Nate Calabro, and our Senior Boys relay team—Jack Burt, Nate Calabro, Hayden Jones and Arlo Cassidy. Well done on an outstanding achievement.

Thank you also to our parent and grandparent helpers who supported our canteen on the day. Your generous service helped create a real community atmosphere and your assistance was greatly appreciated.

This week is Bullying No Way: National Week of Action. Students will be engaging in age-appropriate learning and activities across the week that reinforce respect, safety and our shared responsibility to build communities of belonging where every child is known, valued and safe. A reminder for families of students preparing for Confirmation: we will hold a parent information session on Thursday evening in the Religion Room at 5pm. Your partnership as primary educators in faith is essential and we look forward to sharing this important step in your child's sacramental journey.

This Sunday, all families are warmly invited to our special Family Mass at 5.00pm in our school chapel. This is a beautiful opportunity to gather in prayer and strengthen our connection as a faith-filled community.

This week our Junior AECG members will attend the AECG meeting, and our school captains and vice captains will attend the Mercy Mass at RBCC. Finally, a reminder that assembly will be held on Friday at 2.45pm in our school hall. We hope you can join us.

Denise Gersbach
Principal



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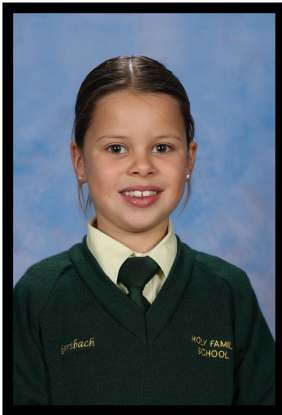


FIND US ON FACEBOOK
Holy Family Parish School Parkes

★ Star of the Week ★

Ellie Gersbach is our Star of the Week for being a wonderfully well-mannered and respectful student. She consistently follows our school rules and listens carefully to her teachers' instructions. Ellie is kind, caring and always willing to be a good friend to others. She treats everyone with respect, is thoughtful and considerate, and sets a wonderful example for those around her. Ellie also takes pride in her appearance and always wears her school uniform with pride. We are very proud of the positive attitude, friendly nature and excellent manners Ellie displays each day.

Interview with Ellie



What is your favourite subject?



Mathematics

In your free time, what do you like to do?

Draw

What is your favourite food?

Ice Cream

What do you like most about our school?

The play equipment



Mathematics and
running

What would you like to be when you
grow up ?

A teacher

Term 3 Week 5: Manner of the Week (From our Core Value - TRUST)

Be kind, stand up for others, and treat everyone with respect.

This fortnight's challenge is on- The 2026 Commonwealth Games

1. Which city hosted the 2026 Commonwealth Games?	A. Melbourne B. Gold Coast C. Glasgow D. Birmingham
2. In which country is Glasgow located?	A. England B. Wales C. Ireland D. Scotland

3. Approximately how many nations and territories compete in the Commonwealth Games?	A. 25 B. 40 C. 74 D. 100
4. Which Australian swimmer won gold in the men's 400m freestyle?	A. Kyle Chalmers B. Elijah Winnington C. Sam Short D. Flynn Southam
5. Mollie O'Callaghan won gold in which event at Glasgow 2026?	A. 100m Butterfly B. 200m Freestyle C. 200m Backstroke D. 400m Individual Medley
6. Which Australian athlete won gold in the women's 10,000m athletics event?	A. Jemima Montag B. Jessica Hull C. Rose Davies D. Claudia Hollingsworth
7. Which sport did Georgia Godwin win a gold medal in?	A. Swimming B. Athletics C. Cycling D. Artistic Gymnastics
8. Which Australian athlete won gold in the men's discus?	A. Kurtis Marschall B. Matt Denny C. Rohan Browning D. Lachlan Kennedy
9. Mackenzie Little won a gold medal in which event?	A. Long Jump B. Shot Put C. Javelin D. Discus
10. Which Australian athlete won gold in the men's pole vault?	A. Matt Denny B. Kurtis Marschall C. Peter Bol D. Cameron Myers

If there are multiple winning entries, your name will go into a draw. The winners will be drawn out of a hat and receive a prize at our School Assembly. Please write your name and answer on a piece of paper and hand it to me any time this week. I hope everyone has a great week.

Andrew Berger

Religious Education

TWENTIETH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME / YEAR A



There will be an Information Session on the 20th of August, 5pm, in the school RE Room for the parents of the children making their Confirmation.

The children who are making their Confirmation are preparing for the Sacrament in school by learning about-

- ★ *The role and history of the Holy Spirit, starting from Pentecost.*
- ★ *The importance of Chrism oil and the laying on of hands by a bishop or priest.*
- ★ *How to choose a Confirmation saint for inspiration and a Christian role model.*
- ★ *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.*
- ★ *Key prayers and statements of faith, including the Apostles' Creed.*

The meaning of all Seven Sacraments, with a deep focus on Confirmation as a seal of faith.

There will be a **Family Mass on Sunday, 23rd August, 5.00pm, at the St Aloysius Chapel** (the Chapel on the school premises). It would be wonderful to see families attend and children participating in the readings and offertory.

***Sacrament of CONFIRMATION Information Session- 20th of August, 5pm, in the school RE Room** for the parents of the children making their Confirmation.

**Special blessings go out to our students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

Upcoming Masses & Liturgies

*** Family Mass - Sunday, 23rd August, 5pm - Chapel**

***Sacrament of CONFIRMATION - Friday, 28th August, 6pm, Holy Family Parish Church**

***Fathers' Day Liturgy- 12.30pm HFS Hall (Stage 2)**

***Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary In-Class Liturgy**

I hope everyone has a wonderful week.

Beverly Berger



★ **GET READY FOR THE TALENT QUEST!** ★

Are you performing in the upcoming Talent Quest? We are holding Audition Rehearsals this week in the hall to help you get stage-ready!

When is your rehearsal? Your rehearsal day is on the same day of the week as your main audition:

- Monday Auditions (Aug 24): Rehearsal is Monday, Aug 17
- Tuesday Auditions (Aug 25): Rehearsal is Tuesday, Aug 18
- Wednesday Auditions (Aug 26): Rehearsal is Wed, Aug 19

Important Details:

- 🕒 **Where & When:** Head straight to the hall as soon as you finish eating your lunch. We have a lot of performers, so please be prompt!
- 🎒 **What to bring:** Bring any props, music, or instruments you need for your act.
- 👕 **What to wear:** Standard school uniform is fine—no need to change into costumes for practice!
- **MCs and Stage assistants** will also need to be at the rehearsals.

Holy Family's Got Talent Audition Timetable ~ Auditions begin at 1:15pm

Monday 24th August	Tuesday 25th August	Wednesday 26th August
MC: Max & Aava Stage: Isaac, Hayden, Nate & Rhys	MC: Bill & Jasper Stage: Kaleb, Seth, Prince, Ethan & Hunter	MC: Layla & Harvey Stage: Jonti, Flo, Olivia & Tatum
Eyekons Singing & Dancing Amelia & Kendall	Sophie Rose Singing Sophie	Mad Scientists Experiment Jax, Archer & Archie
Peyton Singing Peyton C	Sparkle Girls Dancing Tully & Iris	Iconic Isla Singing Isla
Super Girls Dancing Ruby, Farrah, Nazzy, Matilda & Allegra	Tessa Singing Tessa	MJI Dancing Mary, Jordan & Indigo
The Fruits Dancing Navy, Emmerson & Ellie	The Jackson IIs Dancing Arlo, Nate, Hayden, Jonti, Rhys, Harvey, Piper, Tatum, Flo, Layla & Olivia	Sing Singing Roop Preet Kaur
Magic Magic Tricks Sanuja	Try My Best Singing Ivy	Freeze Dance Dancing Sonny & Charlie
Smooth Vibes Dancing on Hoverboard Joel	The Bestie Club Dancing Peyton S, Naveah & Amity	Piano Artist Playing Piano Sydney
Arshi Singing Arshi	Sk8er Girl Playing Keyboard Aava	Katseye Trio Dancing Ava, Hope & Aiyshu
Headlights Playing Headlights by Allan Walker on Piano Aarnav	Therapy!! Acting Max & Isaac	A Little Bit Bad Singing Hunter
Magic Magic/Card, Coin & Finger Tricks Wanuja	The Cowboys! Playing Guitar & Singing Toby, Harvey & Zoe	Twinkling Little Stars Singing Marli & Jedda
Karate Karate Demonstration Kolby	Guitar Girls Playing Guitar & Singing Molly, Piper, Georgie & Mavis	Billie Jean Singing Braith
Hit It Playing Drums Joey	Rollin' Down Town Singing Roy & Mason	Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Dancing Isla, Chelsea & Millie
Thriller Harper		

Notes

Family Mass

Holy Family School Chapel

5.00pm, Sunday 23rd August 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to inform you that we are having a Family Mass on Sunday the 23rd of August at 5.00pm at Holy Family School Chapel.

We would like to extend an invitation to all families in our school to attend our special mass.

It would be wonderful if students would like to volunteer to read, altar serve, or take up the Offertory during Mass. Please respond to the Google Form if your child is able to participate as we come together as a school community. We look forward to celebrating with you all.

With gratitude,
Holy Family Staff and Students

In Praise, Love and Trust



Holy Family's Got Talent
Save the Dates

Monday 24th August - 1.15pm

Tuesday 25th August - 1.15pm

Wednesday 24th August - 1.15pm

Grand Final

Wednesday 2nd September - 1pm

Holy Family School Hall
Family and Friends welcome

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Please join us in the Holy Family
School Religion Room on Tuesday
morning at 8.40am, as we

Gather - Together - Reflect

Our GTR this week is about exploring
how prayer can transform us from the
inside out.

'Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.'
Romans 12:2

All Parents, Carers, Toddlers and Parishioners are welcome!



FATHER'S DAY *Breakfast*

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

Time: 8am

Where: School Hall

While the dads enjoy their bacon and egg rolls the children have an opportunity to pick out the perfect Father's Day gift from the P&F Stalls

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Notes

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL
RELIGION ROOM
AT 5PM
THURSDAY THE 20TH OF AUGUST 2026

Parents and Carers are invited to share in a special evening to support your child on their faith journey.

During the session:

- Mrs Berger will outline the details of the evening.
- Miss Lee will guide you in creating a meaningful gift for your child, as a memento of this occasion.
- Fr Barry will provide insights into the sacrament and bless the gifts.

As your child's first educators in faith, this session is an opportunity for you to deepen your own understanding of the sacrament and support your child in this sacred milestone.

BOOK WEEK PARADE



SYMPHONY OF STORIES

PARENTS AND FRIENDS COME JOIN US FOR OUR SCHOOL
BOOK PARADE

THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST AT 9.00 AM

COME ALONG AND SEE OUR STUDENTS PROUDLY PARADE IN
THEIR FAVOURITE BOOK CHARACTER COSTUMES.

Sacrament of Confirmation



MASS

August 28, 2026 • 6 PM

Holy Family Catholic Church

29 Currajong St, Parkes NSW 2870

PLAY AND GROW

A HAPPY PLACE TO GATHER



**The Holy Family School Play and
Grow Playgroup on Friday from
10AM - 11AM. See you there!**

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnerships with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences. Schools, in providing a caring teaching and learning environment, which addresses the learning and support needs of students, including those with additional learning and support needs or complex health conditions, foster students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community.

Parents are responsible for:

- enrolling their children of compulsory school age in a government or registered non-government school or registering them with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for home schooling;
- ensuring that their children attend school every day the school is open for their instruction;
- explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within 7 days to the school;
- working in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school, including communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child's attendance or engagement with school.

CYBER SAFETY - UNWELCOME WEBSITES

Unwelcome websites are often encountered when students search for information utilising Internet Search Engines such as Google, Bing, etc. These websites often contain material that may be age inappropriate, sexually explicit, pornographic, violent and offensive. The following information guides for parents may be of interest and assistance in ensuring that your children are protected from offensive content when using the internet.

[Welcome to iParent](https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent) (<https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>)

Where you can learn about the digital environment and how to help your child have safe and enjoyable online experiences. Our 10 minute interactive tour is for parents of pre-teens and young teens (10 to 14 years). It has plenty of tips and practical steps along the way so you can help your child explore safely and manage online issues should they arise. This is especially important at this age as they strive for independence and peer acceptance. There are no right or wrong answers and you'll get to see how other parents responded to the same questions.

STUDENT AMBULANCE COVER CONDITIONS

Student Ambulance Cover applies to transportation following a student accident, not an illness or medical condition. School policy is to call an ambulance in the event of a serious injury or illness (eg severe asthma attack, anaphylactic reaction, seizure etc). If your child has a pre existing medical condition that falls into this category, please be aware that the cost of the ambulance may be at the parent's expense if you do not have family ambulance cover.

Term 3 - Parent Calendar

	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
Jul	1	20 First Day - Term 3 (Staff and Students) CSNSW Curriculum Conference (Online) [TBC]	21 Bishops Charter Staff Meeting (Mick Gibbons)	22 NSW PSSA Cross Country	23	24 Grandparents' Day Mass Stage 2 12.15pm - Hall	25 / 26 Sts Joachim & Anne (26/7)
Jul/Aug	2	27 Inclusion Awareness Education - Year 5	28 Inclusion Awareness Education - Year 5 Stage 2 Art Excursion (Dubbo) DIBELS MOY Data Staff Meeting (Sarah)	29 Compliance SSO CENSUS (Zoom) 10am - 11am	30 Central Cluster Athletics (Trundle) Avila Leadership (Online) (Time TBC) [ES19]	31 Avila Leadership (Online) (Time TBC) [ES19] Assembly - 2.45pm	1 / 2
Aug	3	3 Todd Woodbridge Cup - Stage 2 (Forbes)	4 Compliance Principals (Zoom) 10am-11am [TBC] Staff Meeting - Annual Curriculum Assurance ICAS Digital Technologies	5 ICAS Writing P&F Meeting	6 Leadership Scrum 8:15 am - 8:45 am	7 Mary MacKillop Liturgy Stage 1 12:30pm - Hall	8 / 9 St Mary of the Cross MacKillop (8/8)
Aug	4	10 ICAS English	11	12	13 WF Diocesan Athletics (Parkes)	14 Year 3-6 Touch Football Development Sessions	15 / 16 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Aug	5	17 Bullying No Way: National Week of Action (17-21 Aug) Polding Golf (Blackheath) ICAS Science (TBC)	18 AECG Meeting- Junior and Senior (Middleton PS)	19 ICAS Spelling Bee Mercy Mass - RBCC (Captains)	20 Confirmation Parent Information Session 5pm (RE Room)	21 Assembly - 2.45pm	22 / 23 Book Week (22-28 Aug) Sun 23/8 Family Mass 5.00pm - Chapel
Aug	6	24 ICAS Mathematics Holy Family's Got Talent - Auditions	25 Holy Family's Got Talent - Auditions	26 Holy Family's Got Talent - Auditions	27 Leadership Scrum 8:15 am - 8:45 am Book Week Parade 9am	28 Lois Jones/Rex Smith Interscholar Hockey Assembly - 2.45pm Confirmation 6pm - Holy Family Church	29 / 30
Aug/Sep	7	31 Principal/SSO Cluster Meeting - Central - Parkes [DS02] Australian Teacher Aide Appreciation Week (31/8-4/9)	1 Principal/SSO Cluster Meeting - Central - Parkes [DS02] ½ Day Public Holiday - Parkes Show	2 P&F Meeting - 6pm	3	4 Father's Day Liturgy Stage 2 12.30pm HFS Hall Father's Day Breakfast (8am)	5 / 6
Sep	8	7 <i>Indigenous Literacy Day</i>	8 Assembly - 2.45pm	9 Holy Family's Got Talent - Grand Final	10	11 Polding Athletics (Glendale) - Nicole/Denise	12 / 13
Sep	9	14	15 ANT NCCD Conference CEO [AN07] - Michael	16 Holy Family - Times Table Challenge Final - 11.30am ANT NCCD Conference CEO [AN07] - Michael	17 Leadership Scrum 8:15 am - 8:45 am School Disco - 6.00pm	18 St Vincent de Paul Liturgy 10.15am Mufti Mission Day Stalls	19 / 20
Sep	10	21 Assembly - 2.45pm	22	23 Last Day of Term 3 - Students	24 Pupil Free Day Curriculum Conference Peak Hill, Trundle, Condo, Forbes, Parkes, Narromine (Parkes)	25 Pupil Free Day Curriculum Conference (Parkes) Last Day Of Term 3 - Staff	26 / 27